

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-52. (Canceled).

53-58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently amended). A method for increasing lactose digestion in a subject, comprising the steps of:

identifying a subject patient suffering from or at risk of developing lactose intolerance, and

administering to said subject patient a composition comprising an effective amount of viable *Bacillus coagulans* bacteria and a supplemental lactase, wherein said bacteria is selected from the group consisting of GBI-20 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6085), GBI-30 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6086), and GBI-40 (ATCC Designation Number PTA-6087),

whereby lactose digestion in said subject is increased following said administration.

60. (Currently amended). The method of claim 59, wherein the subject patient is human.

61. (Original). The method of claim 59, wherein said lactase is provided in a concentration from about 1000 IU to about 12,000 IU.

62.-76. (Canceled).

77.-79. (Canceled).